

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01013 191605Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 CA-01 HA-05 /095 W
-----043405 201352Z /47

R 191520Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1317
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1013

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PDEV, MOPS, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RED CROSS OFFICIALS KILLED

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 19 THAT
THREE RED CROSS OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TWO EXPATRIATE
SWISS NATIONALS, WERE EXECUTED BY RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS.
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE KILLINGS TOOK PLACE ON
MAY 18 AT NYAMAROPA, ON THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER. REPORTEDLY
THE THREE MEN WERE TRAVELING IN A WHITE RED CROSS
VEHICLE, FLYING THE RED CROSS FLAG, AND WERE STOPPED,
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MADE TO GET OUT, KNEEL BY THE CAR AND SHOT. THE ACCOUNTS
SAY THAT THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FLOWN IN LOCAL
AND INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS TO VIEW THE SCENE OF THE KILLINGS.

2. COMMENT: THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES MAY FIND THE
INCIDENT CONVENIENT FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES FOLLOWING
ON THE GUTUTIL KILLINGS OF "CURFEW BREAKERS" (PRETORIA 2887).

IN KEEPING WITH THE PUBLICITY THEY GAVE THE MISSIONARY KILLINGS LAST YEAR, THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS SET TO DO THE SAME IN THIS CASE, TO THE EXTENT OF FLYING REPORTERS OUT TO THE SCENE, AND OFFER NOT MADE IN THE CASE OF THE CURFEW BREAKERS.

EXPECT WE WILL BE ASKED FOR OUR REACTION TO BOTH INCIDENTS.
PROPOSE WE RESPOND THAT WE KNOW ONLY WHAT HAS APPEARED IN THE MEDIA, WE CONDEMN SUCH ACTS NO MATTER BY WHOM THEY ARE PERPETRATED, AND THE SOONER AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN RHODESIA, THE SOONER AN END CAN BE BROUGHT TO SUCH TRAGIC INCIDENTS.

NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 may 1978
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Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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